

**We Claim:**

1. In a computing device, a method for archiving files comprising:  
detecting an instruction from a resident program to perform an operation on an operating file; and  
capturing the operating file temporally proximate to the operation being performed on the operating file, responsive to the detection of the instruction.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein capturing the operating file includes creating an archive file and storing the archive file in a storage location.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the archive file includes a copy of the operating file.
4. The method of claim 2 wherein the archive file includes portions of the operating file.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the archive file includes pointers directed to one or more storage locations, wherein each of the one or more second storage locations contains at least a portion of the operating file.
6. The method of claim 2 wherein capturing the file includes saving the archive file prior to the operation being performed on the operating file.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein capturing the file includes saving the archive file subsequent to detecting the instruction to perform the operation.
8. The method of claim 2 wherein capturing the file includes saving the archive file subsequent to the operation being performed on the operating file.
9. The method of claim 2 wherein the storage location includes a buffer.

10. The method of claim 2 wherein the first storage location includes a storage device.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the storage device includes at least one of a group comprising a magnetic storage medium, an optical storage medium, and a solid-state storage device.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the storage location includes a directory disposed on said storage device.

13. The method of claim 1 further comprising determining whether the operating file is intended to be captured prior to said capturing step.

14. The method of claim 1 further comprising determining whether the operating file has previously been captured prior to capturing the file.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein the operation causes a change in the operating file.

16. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code for performing the method of claim 1.

17. A data transmission signal having computer readable program code for performing the method of claim 1.

18. An article of manufacture comprising a processor configured to perform the method of claim 1.

19. In a computing device, a method for moving files from a first storage location to a second storage location comprising:  
searching a first storage location for files responsive to the occurrence of a

first event;

moving the files from the first storage location to the second storage location responsive to a second event.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the first storage location includes a buffer.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the second storage location includes a storage device.

22. The method of claim 19 wherein the first event includes a message from a timer.

23. The method of claim 19 wherein the first event includes a message from a program resident on the computing device.

24. The method of claim 19 wherein the second event includes a message from a timer.

25. The method of claim 19 wherein the second event includes a message indicating when the second storage location is available.

26. The method of claim 19 further comprising:

after detecting the files, updating a database to indicate that the detected files are located in the first storage location;

determining a destination for each of the detected files;

moving detected files from the first storage location to an intermediate storage location;

updating the database to indicate that the detected files are located in the intermediate storage location; and

after moving the file to the second storage location, updating the database to indicate that the files are located in the second storage location.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the second storage location includes a personal attached storage device.

28. The method of claim 26 wherein the second storage location includes a network attached storage device.

29. The method of claim 26 wherein the second storage location includes a peer-to-peer storage device.

30. The method of claim 26 wherein the second storage location includes an Internet storage area network.

31. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code for performing the method of claim 19.

32. A data transmission signal having computer readable program code for performing the method of claim 19.

33. An article of manufacture comprising a processor configured to perform the method of claim 19.

34. In a computing device, a method for archiving files comprising:  
detecting an instruction from a resident program to perform an operation on an operating file;  
creating an archive file from the operating file and storing the archive file in a first storage location temporally proximate to the operation being performed on the operating file and responsive to detecting the instruction;  
searching the first storage location the archive file responsive to the occurrence of a first event; and  
moving the archive file from the first storage location to the second storage location responsive to a second event.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein storing the archive file includes storing the archive file prior to the operation being performed on the operating file.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein storing the archive file includes storing the archive file prior to the operation being performed on the operating file and subsequent to the operation being performed on the archive file.

37. The method of claim 34 wherein storing the archive file includes storing the archive file subsequent to the operation being performed on the operating file.

38. The method of claim 34 wherein the first storage location includes a buffer.

39. The method of claim 34 wherein the first event includes a message from a timer.

40. The method of claim 34 wherein the first event includes a message from a program resident on the computing device.

41. The method of claim 34 wherein the second event includes a message from a timer.

42. The method of claim 34 wherein the second event includes a message indicating when the second storage location is available.

43. The method of claim 34 wherein the second storage location is an output buffer.

44. The method of claim 34 further comprising:

after detecting the files, updating a database to indicate that the detected files are located in the first storage location;

determining a destination for each of the detected files;

moving detected files from the first storage location to an intermediate storage location;

updating the database to indicate that the detected files are located in the intermediate storage location; and

after moving the file to the second storage location, updating the database to indicate that the files are located in the second storage location.

45. The method of claim 44 wherein the second storage location includes a personal attached storage device.

46. The method of claim 44 wherein the second storage location includes a network attached storage device.

47. The method of claim 44 wherein the second storage location includes a peer-to-peer storage device.

48. The method of claim 44 wherein the second storage location includes an Internet storage area network.

49. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code for performing the method of claim 44.

50. A data transmission signal having computer readable program code for performing the method of claim 44.

51. An article of manufacture comprising a processor configured to perform the method of claim 44.